

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 16 and 17 have been amended.

Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 16 and 17 have been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for claims 3, 16 and 17. However, for the reasons discussed below, Applicants assert that all of claims 1-3, 16 and 17 are allowable.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Mikame, U. S. Patent No. 6,144,920. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mikame fails to disclose a navigation system with an input means that can input an area for searching register points and a searching means that searches the register points existing within the area input by the input means as recited in claim 1.

More specifically, according to claim 1, when searching register points existing within a predetermined limit on the basis of the input reference position, the input means can expand the input area, for example, to an area encompassing a country, a state or a city, and the searched means can expand the search of the register points existing within the input area. In this regard, the reference position is not the same as the area. For example, when a driver inputs a reference position near a border between the United States and Canada, the register points are searched within the predetermined limit around the reference position, i.e., the search is not dedicated merely to the location of the reference position, but rather includes the designated area around the reference position. In addition, if one wishes to search only the register points in the United States, in this example, then one can input an area name, for

example, "USA", resulting in only those register points located in the United States being searched.

Mikame, on the other hand, inputs only the reference position and not the area surrounding the reference position, such as a country, state or city. Although Mikame discloses a zoom function that changes the scale of the displayed area surrounding the reference position, Mikame does not use this zoom function nor does the zoom function effect the amount of area in which their search means searches. In fact, the zoom function only changes the scale of the display area after Mikame's search means searches for the registered points.

Accordingly, Mikame fails to disclose all of the features recited in Applicants' claim

1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.


Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mikame in view of Maekawa et al. (Maekawa), U. S. Patent No. 6,038,508. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants asserts that Maekawa fails to overcome the deficiencies of Mikame as applied to claim 1. In addition, claim 2 recites additional features of the invention and is also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully that requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 16 and 17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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